IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint prosthesis system for joining a first bone having a first surface to a second bone having a second surface, comprising:

at least one bioabsorbable spacer adapted to be interposed between the first surface and the second surface; and

at least one connector adapted to be fixedly attached to the first bone and the second bone, at least a portion of the at least one connector being in contact with the at least one bioabsorbable spacer and disposed to prevent lateral movement of the at least one bioabsorbable spacer.

2. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer is cylindrical.

3. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer has a porosity of about 50 μm to 1000 μm.

4. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a bioabsorbable fabric wrapped to form a cylindrical body.

5. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer further comprises a bioabsorbable film that binds with said bioabsorbable fabric.

6. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 5, wherein said bioabsorbable film comprises bioactive components.

7. (Original) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric is comprised of at least two compounds having different degradation rates in tissue.

8. (Original) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric is coated with a material having a ~~different~~ degradation rate ~~in tissue~~ different than the degradation rate of the bioabsorbable fabric in tissue.

9. (Original) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric comprises fibers, said fibers comprising a first polymer coated with a second polymer that degrades faster in tisssue than said first polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a bioabsorbable fabric comprising bioabsorbable fibers having a thickness of about 1 μm to 300 μm.

11. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system of claim 1, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a bioactive agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a cavity.

13. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 12, wherein the surface of said cavity ~~comprises~~ has a coating comprising at least one bioactive agent.

14. (Original) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said at least one bioactive agent is a bone growth promoting substance.

15. (Original) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said at least one bioactive agent is hyaline cartilage cells.

16. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1 ~~comprising~~, wherein the at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises two bioabsorbable spacers.

17. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 16, wherein at least one of said two bioabsorbable spacers comprises a cavity.

18. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the surface of said cavity ~~comprises~~ has a coating comprising at least one bioactive agent.

19. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the surface of said cavity ~~further comprises~~ has a coating comprising hylaine cartilage cells.

20. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises two bioabsorbable spacers, each of said two bioabsorbable spacers having a first side adapted to contact a bone and having a second side adapted to contact the other one of said two bioabsorbable spacers ~~comprising two bioabsorbable spacers, wherein each of said bioabsorbable spacers comprise a first side adapted to contact either a first bone having a first surface or a second bone having a second surface and each of said absorbable spacers comprising a second side adapted to contact the other bioabsorbable spacer~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 20, wherein the first side has a first coating comprising a bioactive agent to promote bone growth, and said second side has a second coating comprising a bioactive agent to promote cartilage growth.

22. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one connector is constructed of the patient's own tissue.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a joint injury comprising the steps of:

providing at least one bioabsorbable spacer;

interposing said at least one bioabsorbable spacer between ~~the surface of~~ a first bone ~~having a first surface~~ and a second bone ~~having a second surface~~;

connecting said first bone to said second bone with at least one connector such that at least part of said at least one connector contacts said at least one bioabsorbable spacer, thereby restricting the lateral movement of said at least one bioabsorbable spacer.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer is cylindrical.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer has a porosity of about 50 μm to 1000 μm.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a bioabsorbable fabric wrapped to form a cylindrical body.

27.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer further comprises a bioabsorbable film that binds with said bioabsorbable fabric.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said bioabsorbable film includes bioactive

components.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric ~~is comprised~~ comprises at least two compounds having different degradation rates in tissue.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric is coated with a material having a ~~different~~ degradation rate ~~in tissue~~ different than the degradation rate of ~~than~~ the bioabsorbable fabric in tissue.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said bioabsorbable fabric comprises fibers, said fibers comprising a first polymer coated with a second polymer that degrades faster in tissue than said first polymer.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a bioabsorbable fabric comprising bioabsorbable fibers having a thickness of about 1 μm to 300 μm.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises a cavity.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the at least one bioabsorbable

spacer comprises a first and second bioabsorbable spacer and wherein interposing said at least one bioabsorbable spacer comprises interposing the first bioabsorbable spacer between the first bone and the second bioabsorbable spacer, and interposing the second bioabsorbable spacer between the first bioabsorbable spacer and the second bone.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein at least one of said first and second bioabsorbable spacers comprises a cavity.

36. (New) The joint prosthesis system of claim 16, wherein surfaces of the two bioabsorbable spacers mutually define a cavity.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein surfaces of the two bioabsorbable spacers mutually define a cavity.